



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 30, 2008

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Raquel Halsey: 202-835-2000

## **WASHINGTON DC EARNS HIGH MARKS FOR ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

**Washington, DC** – The District of Columbia’s academic standards received high marks in a report recently released by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). “Sizing Up State Standards 2008” is the first study to evaluate the new learning standards adopted by the State Board of Education from 2005-2006.

The study evaluated the “clarity, specificity, and content” of the standards in all 50 states and the District of Columbia across the four core subjects of English language arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Highest marks were given to Virginia, with three states – Georgia, Indiana, and the District of Columbia – essentially tied for second. “This report is important because it puts DC’s standards in the same league as states that have long been considered leaders in the standards movement” said Barbara Davidson, President of StandardsWork.

In conducting its review, AFT gave strong consideration to states that clearly delineated the content and skills students are expected to learn in each grade, saying the standards must “be detailed and explicit with little or no repetition and rooted firmly enough in the content of the subject area to lead to a common, knowledge-rich curriculum.”

The District of Columbia’s standards also benefited from having “sample learning activities” and curriculum documents that elaborate on the standards and provide additional direction to educators.

StandardsWork led the district-wide project to re-write the content standards and develop aligned curriculum. “The AFT findings reflect the good and hard work of many people in the local education community who contributed to the development of the standards and echo positive feedback we’ve heard from experts around the country who have reviewed them since they were adopted,” Davidson said.

StandardsWork, Inc. is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit education consultancy that works hand-in-hand with school districts, state agencies and civic groups around the country to improve student achievement. The organization, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is considered one of the leaders in the standards-based school reform movement.

#####

*Working for a better standard of education.*

1001 Connecticut Ave., NW · Suite 640 · Washington, DC 20036 · Phone: (202) 835-2000 · Fax: (202) 659-4494  
[www.standardswork.org](http://www.standardswork.org)